

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 072145Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1353

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6519

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE, CI

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE AND PERU

REF USIS LIMA 061924Z AUG 74

1. JERRY O'LEARY'S ARTICLE IN AUGUST 4 STAR-NEWS ON POSSIBLE CHILE-PERU HOSTILITIES AND U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES, HAS STIRRED UP HOSTILE REACTION ON PART OF GOP AND ITS PRESS SUPPORTERS. ARTICLE, WITH THE MORE SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL COMMENTS ON VELASCO REGIME EXCISED, WAS CARRIED IN AUGUST 5 CORREO, TOGETHER WITH SIGNED COMMENTARY BY NEW CORREO DIRECTOR, HUGO NEIRA.

2. WHILE MOST OF NEIRA COMMENTARY PREDICTABLY CRITICIZES O'LEARY ARTICLE AND PRAISES VELASCO'S "INCA PLAN", ONE ASPECT IS TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR AND UNACCEPTABLE, NAMELY NEIRA'S ALLEGATION THAT USG IS FOMENTING
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ARMS RACE AND EVENTUAL CHILE-PERU WAR. SPECIFIC STATE-

MENT IN QUESTION IS THAT "THE UNITED STATES, AN ARMS-SUPPLYING POWER, THROUGH KISSINGER, VIEWS WITH PLEASURE ALL CONFLICT AND POLITICAL OR FRONTIER TENSION ON THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT."

3. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION, AT AUGUST 5 LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY, DR. JUAN GARLAND COMBE, TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THIS COMMENT BY NEIRA. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT PARTICULARLY SINCE GOP HAS EXPROPRIATED LIMA NEWSPAPERS AND APPOINTING THEIR NEW DIRECTORS IT SEEMED LOGICAL ASSUME CERTAIN GOP RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT THESE NEWSPAPERS SAY. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO GARLAND OUR EVEN-HANDED APPROACH IN PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PERU AND CHILE, AND SAID THAT USG HAS NEVER URGED OR SUPPORTED ARMS RACE OR BUILD-UP OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR TOOK SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO NEIRA'S REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY.

4. GARLAND COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES NEIRA TO BE A SENSIBLE (PONDERADO) JOURNALIST AND HE WAS THEREFORE SURPRISED TO SEE THE COMMENTARY. HE SAID HE AGREES THOROUGHLY THAT USG DOES NOT FAVOR AN ARMS RACE OR CHILE-PERU HOSTILITIES. HE THEN VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH NEIRA AND URGE HIM NOT TO PUBLISH SUCH VIEWS. GARLAND SAID HE WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW THE RESULTS OF THIS CONVERSATION.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO FOLLOW CLOSELY WHAT THE LOCAL PRESS, UNDER ITS NEW GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED DIRECTORS, IS SAYING ABOUT U.S.-PERUVIAN RELATIONS. WE ARE READY, AS IN THIS CASE, TO PUT THE HEAT ON THE GOP WHENEVER UNFOUNDED OR EGREGIOUSLY INACCURATE ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES ARE PUBLISHED WHICH WOULD POTENTIALLY DAMAGE USG POSITION HERE.
DEAN

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